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SOME FACTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE LATE CASPER HAUSER,

CHIEFLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE PHYSIOLOGICAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

It may be recollected that some time ago the journals gave an account of this singular young man, who was found one day in the streets of Nuremberg, where nobody could tell who he was, or whence he came : the same obscurity has attended him to the last. Casper Hauser appeared at that time to be about twenty years of age ; could not speak ; and to all appearance had been immured from his infancy in a narrow dark dungeon, where he could never stand erect, nor had anything for food but bread and water. He was about five feet in height ; had a short downy beard on his chin and upper lip : his complexion was very pallid ; his limbs slender ; and his feet evidently had never been enclosed in shoes. His expression was that of gross stupidity : he seemed scarcely to know the use of his hands ; and when he attempted to walk, it was like the first efforts of a child. He could endure no food but bread and water ; and his disgust for all other nutriment was such, that the very smell of meat was sickening to him ; and if by chance he swallowed a few drops of wine or coffee, he was presently seized with violent vomiting.

In some time after, when he was able to make himself understood, it was gathered from him that he knew nothing of his origin ; that it was at Nuremberg he for the first time learned that there were other living beings besides himself and the man with whom he had always been. As long as he could remember, he inhabited a little and low chamber, continually sitting, barefooted, and with no clothes except a shirt and pair of trowsers. He had never seen the sky, and could scarcely be said to have ever seen the light of day. Upon awaking from sleep in his little dungeon, he usually found near him a loaf and a pitcher of water : sometimes the water was ill-tasted ; but generally when this was the case, his eyes grew heavy, and he fell asleep ; and when he awoke he found his shirt had been changed, and that his nails were clipt. He never saw the face of the person who supplied him with food. How long this state of things lasted, nobody could tell. But it was further learned from Casper's imperfect mode of conveying himself, that on one occasion his keeper came into his chamber, and, standing behind him, in order the better to remain concealed, he held the lad's hand, and made him write something : he then put him on his legs, and tried to make him walk. A short time afterwards the keeper took him on his shoulders and carried him to some distant place. Casper could tell nothing about the journey, except that he fainted several times on the way.

In the early part of his residence at Nuremberg, his right side was

subject to violent convulsive motions, particularly when any object strongly impressed his sight. No noise or even rough treatment used then to disturb his sleep. Sunshine inflamed his eyes. Pictures and drawings affected him as if they were models in wood.

The multiplicity of impressions now made on his mind soon raised his nervous system to a high pitch of excitement. The muscles of his face were much affected with nervous contractions; his hands trembled to such a degree that they could hold nothing; his hearing became so painfully sensible, that the sound of a drum threw him into convulsions; and he complained when persons talked in a loud voice near him. He lost his appetite, and he was obliged to be removed to a quiet house, where no visitors were permitted to see him. It was then he for the first time slept in a bed, and began to dream—an affection which he never experienced before.

It cost him much suffering to habituate himself to the common diet, and it required months for the purpose. Warm food produced such a degree of thirst, that he was obliged daily to drink a great quantity of water to appease it. But by habit the convulsions ceased; the cerebral excitement diminished; the eyes were no longer glistening; and in short his health was re-established. It deserves to be particularly mentioned, that this change in his mode of life added two inches to his stature in the course of a few weeks.

The mind of Casper Hauser was like that of a child; and it was long before he could be taught to distinguish animate from inanimate objects. Everything that moved or was moved, he thought was alive, and that the motion was spontaneous: thus a piece of paper blown by the wind seemed to him to be running away. He thought a tree was alive from observing the motion of its leaves and branches, and that its rustling noise was the language in which it expressed itself. He could see as well in the dark as in the clear day-light; this was often proved: and in the greatest obscurity he could distinguish between blue and green. His hearing, as already mentioned, was very acute; but his smell was the sense which caused him the greatest annoyance: all odors except those of bread and some aromatic seeds, were more or less unpleasant to him. At a great distance he could tell fruit trees from others, simply by the smell of their leaves. If he passed by a cemetery, the smell, which was imperceptible to other people, threw him into a fever. A rose would cause him to faint away.

To the effects of the magnetic needle, and of the contact of metallic bodies, he is said to have been tremblingly sensitive. One day a magnet was given him for amusement; he held it for a few minutes, and then threw it away, because he said he felt very uncomfortable with it. Professor Daumer, on hearing this, made some experiments with the magnetic needle upon him: when the needle was presented to his side, he complained of great pain in the stomach, and said he felt as if there was a current of air rushing out of his body towards the instrument.*

Metals acted powerfully on him, and by their contact caused him to

* We suspect the animal magnetizers had some hand in manufacturing this paragraph, and the one that follows it.—*Transl.*

feel an attraction and a degree of cold, that affected him in proportion to the bulk of the metallic bodies. If he took a cat by the tail, he felt a shuddering all over him, and a sort of shock in the hand.*

His mode of diet latterly was this : he could eat all sorts of meat except pork ; but he required to have his animal food slightly spiced and seasoned. Water continued to be his favorite beverage, though he would occasionally take a cup of chocolate in the morning. He hated all fermented liquors—wine, beer, &c., as well as tea and coffee ; in other respects, he lived like other people. He could still see in the dark, but not so perfectly as formerly ; and the only singular thing, perhaps, that remained about him of late, was the recollection of his extraordinary destiny.

The unhappy Casper Hauser is no more : he perished on the 17th of November last by the dagger of an assassin. He had lived for some time at Anspach, where the President Fauerbach gave him some little employment in his clerk's office. Lord Stanhope, also, while at Anspach, contributed to make him comfortable. The assassin escaped, and is wholly unknown : it is said, however, that he is the same person who made a former attack on Hauser's life. The deceased was returning to his office about noon, when he was accosted by an individual, who promised to reveal some important secrets if he would give him a meeting that evening in the park. Casper never told his friends, but imprudently kept the appointment. The stranger was waiting for him ; and presently the fatal blow was struck, which finished the career of a man whose life and death have been equally mysterious and unfortunate.

Gazette des Hôpitaux.

GENUINE AND FRESH SUPPLY OF VACCINE OBTAINED.

BY GEORGE GREGORY, M.D. LONDON.

So much has been said and written, in this country and upon the continent, on the question of vaccine insecurity, and the necessity of having recourse to the cow for a fresh supply, by way of remedying the supposed time-worn degeneracy of the virus, that it will be satisfactory to your readers to know, that what has only been talked of here has been actually effected in India—that a fresh virus has been obtained, and that, when the last accounts came away, both the old and the new stocks might be found at Calcutta.

The circumstances which led to this event, and its more immediate consequences, are detailed in a very interesting memoir, by G. G. Macpherson, Esq., Surgeon in the Bengal Service, published in the sixth volume of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Transactions, recently received in this country. A short abstract of that paper may, perhaps, usefully occupy a few columns of your widely-circulated journal.

On the 4th June, 1832, the Medical Board of Calcutta transmitted to the superintendents of vaccination in the provinces a circular, calling their

* There is surely nothing remarkable in this, as Hauser does not appear to have been much accustomed to cats.—*Transd.*

attention to the "numerous instances of varioloid disease, of a dangerous and even fatal character, which have of late occurred in persons who were previously supposed to be protected by vaccination, and which have so shaken public confidence in the powers of vaccination, that it becomes their duty to take steps to prevent the neglect of this invaluable prophylactic. For this purpose they call upon their vaccinators to institute a series of investigations and experiments, for the purpose of regenerating the virus, and of restoring it to its pristine activity, if it really have degenerated. The best means of effecting this, the Board apprehend, will be to obtain a fresh supply of virus from the cow.

Conformably with the instructions of the Board, Mr. Macpherson, superintendent of vaccination at Moorsheadabad, set to work; and began by making several attempts to affect cows by covering them with the blankets of patients laboring under smallpox, and by inoculating them with smallpox matter and with vaccine matter. They all proved unsuccessful; when he learned that an epizootic had shown itself among the cows at Moidapore, which the natives called by the same name as that given to variola in the human subject. The following is the account given by Mr. Macpherson of this *lues bovilla*.

The animals, for a day or two, appear dull and stupid. They are then seized with distressing cough, and much phlegm collects in the mouth and fauces. There is no appetite for food, or at least an inability to eat. The suffering seemed to be the greatest on the fifth and sixth days, when there was considerable fever, and pustules made their appearance all over the body, especially on the abdomen. These went on to ulceration; the hair falling off wherever a pustule ran its course. The mouth and fauces appeared to be the principal seat of the disease, being, in some instances, one mass of ulceration, which, in all probability, extended to the stomach and alimentary canal. The mortality among the cattle in this epizootic, was calculated at from 15 to 20 per cent. The immediate cause of death seemed to be the affection of the mouth, and consequent inanition.

Mr. Macpherson remarks upon this, how much more serious a complexion the cowpox assumes in India than what we are taught to believe it does at home. The author does not, however, appear to be aware that instances of a similar kind have been described by writers in this country; as, for instance, in Dr. Barron's *Life of Jenner*, p. 352. He observes, as a fact worthy of especial notice, that while the cows were thus affected, no case of variola occurred among the natives of the village. It happened that two cows, belonging to one of his own vaccinators, became affected with the prevailing disease. He had them covered with blankets, leaving merely the udder and teats exposed to the air. On the seventh day, two small pustules made their appearance on the teats of one, which dried up on the tenth, and the crusts were removed on the twelfth day.

These crusts were employed for the purpose of regenerating the vaccine virus. Eleven native children were inoculated from them. On ten of them no satisfactory appearances presented themselves, but the arm of the eleventh child assumed, to his great satisfaction, *all the characteristics of true vaccine*. A vesicle appeared on the fifth day, which continued

to increase till the ninth. The constitutional irritation ran high for four days. The child soon recovered.

Two children were vaccinated with the new lymph, and with the most complete success; but the symptomatic fever was *more severe* than he had ever observed in former instances. From these two, five others were vaccinated; and the result was equally successful. Many of the children belonging to his Majesty's 49th regiment, and others in the families of the English residents, were next vaccinated with the regenerated virus. Dr. French, Mr. Skipton, and other medical gentlemen, expressed themselves completely satisfied with the result. "It is a gratifying fact," adds Mr. Macpherson, "that since the introduction of the new lymph, the symptomatic fever has been more marked, and the confidence of the natives in the efficacy of the operation has increased; the numbers presented for vaccination within the last three months, having much exceeded that of any similar period for the previous two years."

To make sure that the new lymph was really the *true* lymph, he inoculated two of the aforesaid children with smallpox, and both proved secure. Five others were accidentally exposed to the infection of smallpox, but did not take it. The authenticity of the new lymph, therefore, appears to be established.

Mr. Macpherson's paper concludes by announcing that crusts and ivory points, charged with the new lymph, were on their way to Calcutta. No notice of the trials at Calcutta with the new lymph are given. The paper bears date, Moorshedabad, 29th November, 1832.

It would be interesting to know the source of that lymph which, previous to these experiments, had been employed in India. That which was originally supplied to Calcutta, in November, 1802, came from Vienna, by way of Constantinople, Bagdad, Bunorah, Bombay, and Madras; and was sent by Dr. De Carro, who describes it as "the second generation of Milanese equine, or greasy matter, transplanted at Vienna." Whether this stock has been kept up, or has given place to lymph from England or from any other source, I have no means of ascertaining.

London Medical Gazette.

THE LEECH-FISHERY.*

THE country about La Brenne is perhaps the most uninteresting in France. The people are miserable-looking, the cattle wretched, the fish just as bad—but the leeches are admirable.

If ever you pass through La Brenne, you will see a man, pale and straight-haired, with a woolen cap on his head, and his legs and arms naked; he walks along the borders of a marsh, among the spots left dry by the surrounding waters, but particularly wherever the vegetation seems to preserve the subjacent soil undisturbed: this man is a leech-fisher. To see him from a distance,—his woe-begone aspect,—his hollow-eyes,—his livid lips,—his singular gestures,—you would take him for a patient who had left his sick bed in a fit of delirium. If you observe him every

* In a Letter from a French Physician.

now and then raising his legs, and examining them one after the other, you might suppose him a fool ; but he is an intelligent leech-fisher. The leeches attach themselves to his legs and feet as he moves among their haunts ; he feels their presence from their bite, and gathers them as they cluster about the roots of the bullrushes and sea-weeds, or beneath the stones covered with green and gluey moss. Some repose on the mud, while others swim about—but so slowly, that they are easily gathered with the hand. In a favorable season it is possible, in the course of three or four hours, to stow ten or twelve dozen of them in the little bag which the gatherer carries on his shoulder. Sometimes you will see the leech-fisher armed with a kind of spear or harpoon: with this he deposits pieces of decayed animal matter in places frequented by the leeches ; they soon gather round the prey, and are presently themselves gathered into a little vessel half full of water. Such is the leech-fishery in spring.

In summer, the leech retires into deeper water ; and the fishers have then to strip themselves naked, and walk immersed up to the chin. Some of them have little rafts to go upon ; these rafts are made of twigs and rushes, and it is no easy matter to propel them among the weeds and aquatic plants. At this season, too, the supply in the pools is scanty ; the fisher can only take the few that swim within his reach, or those that get entangled in the structure of his raft.

It is a horrid trade, in whatever way it is carried on. The leech-gatherer is constantly more or less in the water, breathing fog and mist, and fetid odors from the marsh ; he is often attacked with ague, catarrhs, and rheumatism. Some indulge in strong liquors, to keep off the noxious influence, but they pay for it in the end by disorders of other kinds. But with all its forbidding peculiarities, the leech-fishery gives employment to many hands ; if it be pernicious, it is also lucrative. Besides supplying all the neighboring *pharmaciens*, great quantities are exported, and there are regular traders engaged for the purpose. Henri Chartier is one of these persons ; and an important personage he is when he comes to Meobecq, or its vicinity ; his arrival makes quite a fête—all are eager to greet him.

Among the interesting particulars which I gathered in La Brenne relative to the leech-trade, I may mention the following :—One of the traders—what with his own fishing and that of his children, and what with his acquisitions from the carriers, who sell quantities *second hand*—was enabled to hoard up 17,500 leeches in the course of a few months ; he kept them deposited in a place where, in one night, they all became frozen *en masse*. But the frost does not immediately kill them ; they may generally be thawed into life again. They easily, indeed, bear very hard usage. I am told by one of the carriers, that he can pack them as closely as he pleases in the moist sack which he ties behind his saddle ; and sometimes he stows his cloak and boots on the top of the sack. The trader buys his leeches *pêle mêle*, big and little, green and black—all the same ; but he afterwards sorts them for the market. Those are generally accounted the best which are of a green ground, with yellow stripes along the back.—*Gazette des Hôpitaux*.

SPINAL IRRITATION.

BY ANDREW NICHOLS, M.M.S.S. OF DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent in Orford, N. H. inquires, "What are the best means of correcting and removing the liability to recurrence of spinal diseases?" From the remarks which follow this question, he evidently means, by "Spinal Diseases," what Teale and others call "Irritation of the Spinal Marrow"—a complaint not only common in New Hampshire, but common wherever rheumatism, hysteria, palpitation of the heart, and a variety of other complaints which I believe in nine cases out of ten are other names for the same disease, are known, and which, as your correspondent correctly says, are "for the most part easily controlled by cupping, blistering, &c., yet a lively susceptibility of recurrence remains an indefinite length of time, in spite of frictions, stimulating washes, plaisters, &c." Having recently suffered severely from one form of this disease, I have acquired a practical acquaintance with the subject that enables me to answer the query of your correspondent, with much confidence in the correctness of my views, which may be dogmatically expressed in one short sentence—**PROTECT THE SPINE FROM PRESSURE**; a most important part of the treatment, which has not, so far as I know, been suggested by any writer on this disease. On the contrary, most of them recommend confining the patient, much of the time, to a horizontal position; in which, unless something better and softer than a feather bed be provided for this purpose, *pressure on the spine* cannot in most cases be avoided. Hence the pains of rheumatism, and the distress from other neuralgic affections, are so frequently aggravated by lying down in bed.

By attentively studying my own case, I found that all the neuralgic pain, lameness, &c. which affected some of the intercostal muscles of the right side (in some measure simulating pleurisy), the muscles of the abdomen, and both upper and lower extremities (caused by irritation in the spinal marrow of the four lower cervical vertebræ, two or three of the dorsal vertebræ, and the lower lumbar and sacral portions of the spine), and which were uniformly relieved by the application of leeches, cupping or blistering, would return after lying a few hours, and especially sleeping, on the back—the only position in which I could lie. For in this complaint, the spine, although the seat of the disease, is the least painful part of the body; *neuralgia being a manifestation in the extremities of nerves, of irritation at their origin*. Pressure on the extremities of the nerves, the seat of neuralgia, immediately aggravates the pain; while pressure on the spine, the seat of the disease, aggravates but little the tenderness and soreness, for it seldom amounts to pain, felt there, and yet it does aggravate the pain or lameness at the extremity of the nerves, proceeding therefrom often in a tenfold degree. Hence a person afflicted with neuralgia, if he suffers himself to sleep while lying on his back, will find on waking that it requires a great effort to move a muscle of the affected parts.

To return to the query of your correspondent, "What are the best

means," &c.—for which I will now substitute the query, What are the best means of protecting irritated portions of the spine from pressure? In severe cases, where the patient cannot lie on either side, the greatest relief is to be derived from the use of Arnott's Hydrostatic Bed. On this bed, every part being equally supported, no one part receives sufficient pressure to increase the irritation, unless it exist in a very high degree. Finding myself unable, by the most careful adjustment of feather beds and pillows, to obviate, during sleep, pressure on the spine, I sat up as much as my strength would admit (18 out of 24 hours) for several days before I obtained a hydrostatic bed, and by this means made slow progress towards recovery. Said bed being obtained, I threw myself upon it and laid twelve hours, half of the time in quiet sleep, without any increase of neuralgia. From this time I rapidly recovered, and I have no doubt that this bed saved me from several weeks of suffering. It is indeed a most luxurious couch, as much softer than good feathers as they are softer than straw. Its general use in cases of fractured limbs, fevers, and other complaints, which confine patients most of the time to a horizontal position, would, I think, save many lives and a vast amount of human suffering. This invention, so far as human comfort is directly concerned, unless I am greatly mistaken, when its merits shall become generally known, will be considered one of the greatest of the age, and will place Arnott's name high among the benefactors of mankind.

If the foregoing theory be correct, that spinal irritation is most frequently restored by pressure on the part, many other means of preventing this evil will readily suggest themselves to medical practitioners; and I trust these hints will enable your correspondent and others to treat this vexatious complaint with greater success than has hitherto attended their practice.

Here, Mr. Editor, I might dismiss the subject—but it seems to me that something more is necessary to arouse the attention of physicians generally to diseases arising from, or connected with, irritation of the spinal marrow and ganglia of the sympathetic nerve. For, notwithstanding the publications of Player, Brown, Darwell, Teale, Tate, and others in Europe; notwithstanding the many interesting cases and notices on this subject in your Journal, and in other medical periodicals—rheumatism, hysteria, &c. still keep their place in our systems of nosology; and instead of the treatment, so simple and so efficacious, recommended by the authors above named—the old practices, the old remedies, are still resorted to and depended on in thousands of instances, with frequent failure of success and protracted suffering as the consequences. I use, Sir, this strong language, and make these bold assertions, hoping thereby to arrest the attention of my medical brethren, and induce all, who have not already done it, to acquaint themselves thoroughly with at least what Teale on Spinal Irritation, and Tate on Hysteria, have said on these subjects—to induce all who are called to prescribe for headaches, pains in the arms, shoulders, sides, breasts, stomach, abdomen, or in the lower extremities; for numbness or any nameless feelings in any of these parts; for coughs, palpitation of the heart, asthma, spasms, &c. &c. to examine carefully the spine, and ascertain whether or no there be soreness, tenderness or pain felt on pressure upon either of the vertebræ; and if

tender spots be discovered, to induce them never to omit either cupping, leeching, blistering, or producing pustulation by tartarized antimony, over such tender parts, whatever other remedies they may choose to employ. In all cases of phthisis, long-continued fevers, fractured limbs, or other accidents or diseases which confine patients to their beds, attention should be paid to the spine, as they may become complicated with irritation of the spinal marrow, and the suffering be greatly augmented thereby. I trust no one will construe any of the above remarks as censure on those who have not hitherto discovered in all cases the seat of neuralgic diseases, and practised accordingly; for the same censure would have been, two months since, as applicable to myself as others—and I owe to personal suffering from this complaint, most of the skill which I may now possess in discovering the nature of the same disease in others. This has taught me, if I may so speak, the natural language of neuralgia. I now understand my patients when they attempt to describe their feelings by words and signs, which were before unintelligible. I now find, that in my own practice, spinal irritation has been entirely overlooked and neglected in at least three-fourths of the cases in which it existed. And that this has been the case in the practice of many of the most deservedly eminent physicians among us, numerous cases, related by them in your *Journal*, bear ample testimony; cases where the symptoms described, prove, beyond doubt, that this irritation must have existed, yet they mention no examination of the spine, and the treatment was not what it would have been had they known of its existence.

Concerning the *causes* of irritation, or sub-acute inflammation of the spinal marrow, but little or nothing has been said in the essays which I have perused on this subject. That it is often a secondary complaint, I have no doubt. In some instances, nerves of the extremities, irritated by a wound or a strain, evidently transfer the irritation to the nervous masses, the ganglia, spinal marrow, or cerebrum, from which those nerves are derived, and which consequently become the seats of the disease. Is not tetanus a highly acute form of the same kind of irritation? May not the effects of cold on the extremities of the nerves be transferred in the same way? The fact that uterine irritation is always, or nearly so, accompanied by spinal irritation, and may be cured, if we believe Dr. Addison, by remedies applied directly to the uterus, or, if we believe Tate, by counter-irritation over the affected portion of the spine, is highly instructive. It seems that two distant parts, which strongly sympathize, may be at the same time the seat of irritation, and that the relief of one relieves the other also. This affords a hint, that in obstinate cases great advantages may be derived from the application of remedies to both parts at the same time.

With the following cases, the first of which occurred in my own practice, and the second related by Dr. E. A. Holyoke of Salem, which throw some light on the subject generally, and on the cause of spinal irritation in particular, I close this communication.

CASE I.—E. P., a hard-laboring farmer, aged 33, in December, 1833, fractured the radius of the right arm, about three inches above the wrist-joint. The bone united in the usual time, but pain and lameness of the joint continued through the winter. The application of stimulat-

ing liniments and plaisters afforded no relief. March 10, 1834.—Found him complaining of not only a lame wrist, but of lame shoulders, lameness of the muscles of the chest, and want of breath on running or other hurried exercise. I now examined the spine, and found the lower cervical and upper dorsal vertebræ tender on pressure. A blister over this part removed in a few days the lameness of the wrist, and all the other unpleasant symptoms.

CASE II.—The following letter communicates the sequel of a case of neuralgia which has been published in your Journal.

DOCTOR NICHOLS,

Salem, March 28, 1834.

SIR,—In compliance with your request, I now send you the particulars of the case of Miss A. F., which you have heard me speak of occasionally. You will find her case among Dr. Warren's cases of neuralgia in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Vol. 2, No. 8, page 117, communicated in a letter from Dr. Peirson to Dr. W., up to February 4, 1828. There is, however, one slight mistake in Dr. W.'s statement, viz. "that after the operation she had one, and only one, spasmodic period, and is now, at the distance of eighteen months from the operation, in perfect health." As I have attended this patient from the time of the first operation to the present, I can say that she never has been, nor is she now, in perfect health, nor has she been free from a spasmodic period a longer time than twelve months, since Dr. W.'s operation, till last December twelve month, since which time she has not had a paroxysm, a period of fifteen months, which is the longest time she has ever been free. After Dr. W.'s operation, which was about the first of April, she had a paroxysm in a few weeks. She had another the next April, and another the October following; then she was free till the next March, and had another the December following; and, as I stated above, she did not go over twelve months without a paroxysm till a year ago last December, in which month she had *two* paroxysms, and has not had one since. The paroxysms were shorter after Dr. W.'s operation (for after that they did not last longer than twenty-four hours; formerly they frequently lasted three and four days), but were full as severe. Whilst Dr. Peirson was in Europe, I read in the above-mentioned valuable Journal a case of spinal irritation, which brought to mind the above case. It then occurred to me that this might be a case of that kind. I immediately visited my patient, and to my great satisfaction found three excessively tender spots in her spine, which corresponded to the different seats of pain. I now told her very confidently I had found out a key to her complaints, and believed I could cure her; but she, as well as her family, laughed at the idea, nor did I wonder at it—for after she had been afflicted thirteen years, had undergone two severe operations, and had taken nearly every article in the materia medica, I thought it reasonable enough. I told her for the future I should direct my attention solely to the back, and apply remedies there; but she was very much opposed to it, said she had suffered enough, and it would be of no use, she never expected to be any better—but by dint of perseverance I prevailed on her to let me go to work. I commenced with a blister, which rather aggravated her symptoms for the time; but after the violence was over, she was somewhat

relieved. I then commenced taking blood by leeches and cupping, which gave her such decided relief, even while the blood was flowing, that she earnestly requested me to repeat the operation as often as I could. I continued these operations two or three times a week for five or six weeks, at the end of which time she found herself so much relieved that she took a journey to Portsmouth, and has continued better ever since, without a paroxysm, a period of fifteen months, and has even walked to meeting twice a day this last winter a considerable distance, which she has not done before for fourteen years. She now goes out freely, but still many of her symptoms continue, such as tenderness in her foot and back, headache occasionally, and slight pain in the leg and thigh, but says she is so well she does not wish to have anything more done. I intend, however, to continue my operations this spring, and will make you acquainted with the result.

I congratulate the profession, Sir, that you have experienced the effects of spinal irritation in your own person, as I think your discovery of the adaptation of Dr. Arnott's hydrostatic bed to this complaint, in *establishing* a cure, after it is begun, is one of the greatest improvements our profession for many years has been enabled to boast of; for I have found in those cases I have met with (and I have had a number) a great disposition in the symptoms to return, and in the above case the symptoms are always aggravated in the morning, but go off after continuing up a short time, which is a proof to my mind that it is owing to too long continued pressure on the spine.

Sincerely yours,

E. A. HOLYOKE.

ARNOTT'S HYDROSTATIC BED.

As the reader may not be acquainted with the construction of Arnott's Hydrostatic Bed, we subjoin the following brief description of it.

This bed is a trough, for a single person, about thirty inches wide, six or six and a half feet long, and one foot deep, filled about two-thirds full of water or other liquid. Over this a sheet of India Rubber water proof cloth is thrown, forty or forty-five inches wide, so that it may lie loosely in folds on the water and be pressed to the bottom without any strain on the cloth, secured in a water-tight manner all round to the top of the trough; over this a sheet, soft mattress, or small feather-bed, may be placed, and the bed dressed in the usual manner. It forms a perfectly luxurious bed, warm, dry and easy, on which the patient floats on still or undulating water as he chooses, as very little muscular exertion will put the whole in motion. A bent tube inserted by the side of a stopcock into one end of the trough, and rising a foot or more above it, is the most convenient method of filling the trough. The water may be drawn off by the cock, and thus exchanged as often as may be necessary. It may also be salted or otherwise medicated so as to preserve it, and render a change of it seldom necessary.

DR. HAZELTINE TO DR. FISH.

Lynn, March 31, 1834.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I beg leave through your Journal to return my grateful acknowledgments to DR. FISH, for his respectful reply to my request made in the Journal of August, 1833, soliciting information relative to the virtues of the Botany-Bay Gum. Few things would be more grateful to me, than to be able to reciprocate the kindness; for few things, in my opinion, if they were practised more frequently, would contribute more to the advancement of that friendly feeling among the members of the medical profession, that is suited to give to professional life half its joys.

Yours respectfully,

RICHARD HAZELTINE.

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BOSTON, APRIL 9, 1834.

"OUTLINES OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY,

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF THE HIGHER CLASSES IN COMMON SCHOOLS."

WE have censured, on more than one occasion, the too prevalent custom of urging forward the youthful mind, and oppressing it with studies suited only to a mature understanding. Parents and teachers are too apt to manage early education, as if the cultivation of the intellect were the object first of all and more than any other to be pursued; when in reality it is of secondary—nay, but the third in importance. The paramount object of all education is the establishment of good moral principles; the second point to be regarded is the bodily health; and after these we place mental cultivation. In these sentiments, all, we apprehend, will agree with us. What we ask is, that in training up their children, all will act in conformity with them. It is not from principle, but from want of reflection, that so many are prone to err in striving to make intellectual prodigies, where all that nature and reason demand is good and healthy children.

But why is it that we would have the mind left free and unshackled in early life? It is not that we value knowledge less than others; but because we believe that the less the mind is encumbered in early youth, the more it will be capable of acquiring in riper years. The graver studies should all be reserved till that stage in life when the intellectual powers are naturally and freely developed, and the mind seeks and is capable of embracing and comprehending them. There is a time when the limbs are not suited to support the weight of the body; yet, by constant training, the child may be made to stand and even to walk, and the parent will show it off with marked delight. The consequence is, that the legs become deformed, and walking, ever after, is awkward and unnatural. There is a time, too, when the limbs are sufficiently firm to bear, and bear about, the weight of the body; and then, if left to itself and without any invitation, the child will desire and attempt, and, with judicious aid, it will easily learn to stand and to walk; it will delight in its acquirement,

and exercise it with benefit instead of injury. So is there a time when the intellectual capabilities are feeble, and though they may be made to bear a considerable amount of knowledge, and parents and teachers may be pleased with its exhibition, it will yet occasion an obliquity that will show itself through life ; whereas, if we are but content to wait till the mind is capable of retaining and supporting the higher branches of knowledge, it will, of its own accord, seek after them, and rejoice in their acquisition ; the lessons we teach will be grasped with readiness and fully comprehended ; and instead of exhausting and deforming, they will permanently enrich, adorn, and strengthen the intellect, and fit it for still higher acquisitions.

When these principles and practices shall prevail, we shall have abundant evidence of their wisdom in the physical condition of the rising generation ;—instead of narrow chests and pale and melancholy faces, we shall see man as he was originally formed, and the youthful countenance with its characteristic color and gaiety—instead of weak eyes, curved spines, enfeebled health, and distracted or decayed intellects, we shall have strong sight, straight backs, good constitutions, and clear and vigorous minds.

We have been led to these remarks from the fear that the appearance of an elementary work on a branch of knowledge so enticing as human physiology, may induce the teachers of common schools to adopt it too generally among their pupils. This danger is rendered greater by the good judgment with which the topics are selected, and the clearness with which they are treated, in the work the title of which is given above. There is a peculiar complexity and beauty in the organs of the human body, as well as in the principles of their action, that cannot be fully comprehended and enjoyed, until that period of life when the pursuits of science become inviting and useful. When the study of Mineralogy and Botany are expedient, then, and not before, would we recommend that of Human Physiology ; and if the faculties have not been impaired by over action, we believe that it will afford as much pleasure, tend as much to enlarge and improve the mind, and unfold as many and as striking evidences of the existence, the wisdom, and the beneficence of the Creator, as any which has ever entered into the most perfect system of education.

It is only for those, we apprehend, who have arrived at this part of their course, that the author of the treatise before us has designed it ; and he would doubtless be as much grieved as ourselves, should his work be put into the hands of the young before they could appreciate it. It is only for the "higher classes" of our schools that he has designed it ; but even here, its pretensions are below its merits. It appears to us a work suited for the very highest class in our high schools, and for students at college. As such we trust it may be used, and prove a fruitful source of that kind of instruction, which, at the same time that it enriches the mind, cannot fail to produce the most salutary and enduring moral impressions. It contains just as much of anatomy as is necessary to the easy comprehension of the various and most important functions of the body ; and this is the exact amount which it is wise and proper to introduce into a system of general education. Indeed, the whole subject is managed with skill and judgment, and it is matter of congratulation that the task of preparing a work of the kind has devolved on one so capable of performing it well, as our friend Dr. Hayward.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MARCH, 1834.

1834. March.	THERMOMETER.			BAROMETER.			Winds.	Appearance of the Atmosphere.	Rain in inches.	Moon's Phase.	Remarks.
	Min- imum.	Maxi- mum.	Mean.	Min- imum.	Maxi- mum.	Mean.					
Sat. 1.	31.00	42.00	36.75	29.80	29.85	29.825	N E	Cumulus.	.40	☾ m.	Snow & rain, NW, a. Severe wind at night.
Sun. 2.	32.50	39.00	35.75	29.50	30.05	29.750	S E	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.			Cirrus, a.
Mon. 3.	19.50	23.00	22.25	30.05	30.15	30.100	NW	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.			
Tues. 4.	24.00	47.00	37.50	30.00	30.15	30.075	S W	Cirro-stratus.			
Wed. 5.	34.00	54.00	44.00	30.05	30.10	30.075	S W	Cumulo-stratus.			
Thur. 6.	38.50	47.00	42.75	29.96	30.05	30.005	S W	Stratus.			
Frid. 7.	36.00	45.50	40.75	30.35	30.45	30.400	E	Cumuli.			
Sat. 8.	33.50	53.50	43.75	29.55	30.15	29.850	S W	Cumulo-stratus.	.12		S E, a. Severe storm.
Sun. 9.	33.00	35.50	31.25	30.10	30.45	30.275	NW	Cumulus.			Rain. Severe storm.
Mon. 10.	18.00	36.50	27.25	30.10	30.60	30.550	NW	Cumulus.			and cumuli. Ther. 28° at 9h. a.
Tues. 11.	31.50	48.00	39.75	29.96	30.46	30.180	S W	Cumulus.		○ m.	High wind.
Wed. 12.	37.00	56.50	46.75	29.64	29.96	29.600	S W	Cumulus.	.01		Slight rain, a.
Thur. 13.	26.50	38.50	32.50	30.02	30.30	30.110	NW	Cirrus.			High wind.
Frid. 14.	24.50	37.50	31.00	30.15	30.35	30.200	S E	Cirro-stratus.			
Sat. 15.	21.00	36.50	28.75	30.05	30.13	30.090	N E	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.	.01		Slight snow, m. S E and stratus, m.
Sun. 16.	21.50	40.00	34.75	30.10	30.25	30.175	N E	Fair.			Cumuli in horizon.
Mon. 17.	31.00	46.50	38.75	30.25	30.25	30.250	S W	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.			Barometer stationary.
Tues. 18.	32.50	46.00	39.25	30.30	30.35	30.325	E	Cirrus.			Stratus, m.
Wed. 19.	35.00	65.00	50.00	29.96	30.30	30.130	S W	Cirro-stratus.	.05		Stratus, m. High wind.
Thur. 20.	41.00	42.50	41.75	29.85	30.04	29.945	N E	Stratus.			Slight rain and S W, m.
Frid. 21.	50.00	38.00	40.25	29.60	29.85	29.725	NW	Cirrus.	.10		Last night, Nimbus and ther. 55° 50. At 9h.
Sat. 22.	19.00	24.00	21.50	29.85	29.90	29.875	NW	Cumuli.			and 21st, high winds, stormy.
Sun. 23.	23.50	41.00	32.25	29.88	29.93	29.905	S W	Cumuli.			NW, m. Stratus, a.
Mon. 24.	31.00	41.50	36.25	29.88	30.00	29.940	S W	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.			Stratus, m.
Tues. 25.	30.50	44.00	37.25	29.86	30.05	29.905	E	Cirro-cumulo-stratus.	.25	● m.	Snow and rain, S E, a.
Wed. 26.	31.00	33.50	32.25	29.83	30.20	30.015	NW	Cumuli.			Thermometer 25° at 9h. a.
Thur. 27.	20.50	48.50	34.50	30.26	30.45	30.355	S W	Cumulus.			Stratus, m. S E and cumuli.
Frid. 28.	31.50	44.50	38.00	30.20	30.45	30.325	S W	Cumuli.			
Sat. 29.	39.00	63.50	45.00	29.69	30.40	29.800	NW	Cumuli.			
Sun. 30.	19.50	29.50	24.50	29.96	30.20	30.090	NW	Cumuli.			
Mon. 31.	21.50	46.00	33.75	30.22	30.35	30.285	S W	Cirro-cumuli.			NW, a. Ther. at 9h. a, 38° 50.
Aggregate.	30.274	43.211	36.346	29.967	30.174	30.07169	S W	Cirrus, cumulus & cumuli.	0.94		

REMARKS.—Mean temperature, 36.346. Maximum on the 19th, wind S W, 65.00. Minimum on the 16th, wind N W, 18.00. Greatest daily variation on the 21st, wind N W, 36.50. Least daily variation on the 20th, wind N E, 1.50. Range of thermometer, 47.00. Increase of mean temperature from February, 2.516.—Mean atmospheric pressure, 30.0716. Maximum on the 16th, wind N W, 30.90. Minimum on the 24, wind S E, 29.50. Greatest daily variation on the 24, wind S E, 0.60. Least daily variation on the 17th, wind S W, 0.00. Range of barometer, 1.10. Increase of atmospheric pressure, 0.0000.—Prevailing atmosphere, cirrus, cumulus and cumuli (clear and fine weather). Prevailing wind, S W. Rain, and snow reduced, in inches, 0.94.

Remarks.—It may not, perhaps, be amiss to direct attention to the remarkable variety and singular changeableness of the weather, in every respect, which occurred during the late vernal equinox. The thermometer and barometer were, as indicated in the table, very sensibly affected, and to a greater extent, for so short a period, than heretofore noticed. In addition, the appearance of a severe *Nimbus*, or thunder-gust, accompanied with vivid lightning, was unexpected for the season, but particularly for the then prevailing low temperature. J. A. BRERETON.

Fort Independence, Mass. April 1, 1834.

Adhesion of the whole Pericardium to the Heart.—F. F., aged 25, was admitted into one of the Berlin hospitals under the care of Dr. Wolff. His symptoms, which had existed with varying severity for the previous six months, were a stitch in the præcordial region, palpitation and dyspnoea, amounting frequently to complete orthopnoea; his sleep was disturbed by sudden startings; he had a cough, with but little mucous expectoration; his urine was sparing in quantity, and of rather a brown color. The complexion of the face was sometimes faintly livid. On attentively examining the region of the heart, it was found that its pulsations were so feeble as not to be readily felt with the hand, and that, under the stethoscope, irregular, weak, and undulatory movements were perceived. The pulse was irregular, small, contracted, and frequent; no appearance was visible of any starting or pushing forward of the diaphragm, or of dragging inward of the lower ribs on the left side, synchronously with the diastole or systole of the heart. The case was supposed to be one of hydrops pericardii. After a very small bleeding, the infusion of digitalis, combined with nitre, was given with the most gratifying results, the patient being speedily able to lie and to sleep in the horizontal posture; but, unfortunately, the drug began to exert its narcotic and poisonous effects, and required to be discontinued. No sooner was this done than the symptoms, in all their aggravation, returned, and the patient died in a few weeks.

Dissection.—The lungs and cavities of the pleuræ healthy. The pericardium was found to be so closely adherent in all its extent to the heart as to be separable from it only by the scalpel; the agglutination was firm and ligamentous; there was no appearance of any intermediate membrane, or of bands passing between the two surfaces, for, strictly speaking, there was but one membrane, or, in the language of the older pathologists, the pericardium was wanting.

Remarks.—The symptoms deemed by Kreysig as characteristic of this disease, namely, the movement forward of the diaphragm and the pulling inward of the left lower ribs, synchronously with the alternate actions of the heart, are unsatisfactory and incorrect. Corvisart says that the absence of any strong palpitations, while the other signs of diseased heart exist, may lead one to suspect adhesion of the pericardium.

Medicinische Zeitung.

Statistics of Accouchments which have taken place at the Maternité, Paris, during Four Years.—From June 1829 to June 1833, there were born 10,742 children. Of this number 10,262 presented the summit of the head; 390 the pelvic extremities; 59 some portion of the trunk; and 30 the face. Of the children born by the head, 9,867 were born at the full

period, 30 being brought forth dead. 395 were born before the full term. Of this last number, 34 had not reached the seventh month, and were not, consequently, viable; 89 were born in a putrid state. There only remained, therefore, 278 born before term, which could have lived, and, of these, 48 died (one in five or six). Amongst the 391 cases of pelvic presentations, 238 were at term, and 153 before it. Of the former 7 were born dead, having been for some time dead *in utero*. Of the 231 which remained, 21 were born dead (one in eleven). Of the 153 born before term, 63 were dead at an early period, and 30 were born at a time when they were not viable. Of the 60 viable which remained, 10 were born dead, which gives a proportion of one to six.—*Jour. des Con. Méd.*

General Statistics of Births.—The following account, taken from the *Journal of the Statistical Society of France*, gives a curious scale of the proportion of male and female births in Europe; the result is the more worthy of attention, as it has been drawn from a scale comprising more than 70 millions of births, in which the cases have been meted:—

For every 100 girls born, there are born in Russia 108.91 boys. In the provinces under Milan, 117.61. In France, 106.55. In Holland, 106.44. In Pomerania and Brandenburg, 106.27. In Sicily, 106.18. In Austria, 106.10. In Silicia, 106.05. In Prussia, 106.94. In Wurtemberg, 105.69. In the Duchy of Posen, 105.66. In Bohemia, 105.38. In Great Britain, 104.75. In Sweden, 104.62. Giving a mean proportion of 116 boys for every 100 girls. The two extremes are formed by Russia and Sweden, and the same results have always been observed in the same country.

Treatment of Acute Rheumatism.—A writer in the Medical Magazine has discarded bleeding in acute rheumatism, and uses a solution of tartar emetic and tincture of digitalis in its stead; the former given every sixth hour in as great doses as the stomach will bear without vomiting, and the latter every sixth hour in doses of from twenty to thirty-five drops. Several bad cases he has found to yield to the continued action of these two articles.

The Health of M. Dupuytren has been completely re-established.

Two of the Communications acknowledged last week are unavoidably deferred till our next, when also we shall publish some remarks on the acetate of lead in pulmonary affections, by a distinguished and valued correspondent.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 4, 27. Males, 13—Females, 14.

Of fits, 1—consumption, 5—scrofula, 1—lung fever, 3—canker in the bowels, 1—old age, 1—drowned, 3—intemperance, 1—stoppage in the bowels, 1—scarlet fever, 1—croup, 1—syphilis, 1—teething, 1—hooping cough, 1—cholera morbus, 1—erysipelas, 1—dysentery, 1. Stillborn, 3.

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